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FLOOR DEBATE

March 23, 2004 LB 1048

included those in the protection. And the other one was, quite simply and reasonably, distance. If there is an attendance center and there is no other attendance center within ten miles, then we gave that consideration as far as protection. So these are our committee amendments. And I would be happy to address questions. I'd urge your adoption of the committee amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. You've heard the opening on the committee amendments. Mr. Clerk, motion?

CLERK: Mr. President, I have amendments to the committee amendments. I have a priority motion, however. Senator Jones would move to bracket LB 1048 until April 15 of 2004.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Jones, you're recognized to open on your bracket motion to bracket LB 1048 till April 15, '04. Senator Jones.

SENATOR JONES: Mr. President and members of the body, I've got real problems with this bill. And I think that the right thing to do is bracket it until the end of the session here, so. But there's...you look across the state, and they have been closing right and left, about 12 a year. And I know that people say, well, maybe they should close faster yet, but I don't think that's the case. And everybody says, well, this does not close that district; it still leaves them as a learning center. Well, that's the first step, if you can't do that. So I think the big concern is here is a lot of them are so far out there that they cannot attend, and you got a superintendent that wants them closed if they possibly can, so they're going to put pressure on the school board to close them. And out of all the Class I schools across the state, I've got a fourth of them in my legislative district. So there's a lot of them there. And they're all concerned up there. And I've been getting a lot of mail to that. And I've had one superintendent that has contacted me, and he says that just as quick as he can, well, he would try to talk the board into closing four out of five that he has in his school district. And the main concern is...I have, too, is, okay, if you do that in affiliated districts, we do not have a school board member out in the country on the